

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 SAB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

SCCT-02 /167 W

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R 251759Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4900

INFORUESBI/AMEMBASSY ZBU DHABI 12

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJ: ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE

REF: TUNIS 1646

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1. ON MARCH 23 TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HABIB CHATTI GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS SUBJECT MEETING. CHATTI NOTED THAT THIS IS NOT SPECIAL SESSION OF LEAGUE BUT RATHER PERIODIC CONFERENCE AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL AND THAT IF "IT HAS PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE, IT IS BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH IT IS BEING HELD". ACCORDING CHATTI, CIRCUMSTANCES ARE: (A) NOVEMBER ALGIERS SUMMIT (DECISIONS TAKEN THERE WILL BE DISCUSSED AGAIN IN TUNIS WITH VIEW OF PUTTING THEM INTO EFFECT); (B) DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON EGYPTIAN FRONT AND DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN DISENGAGEMENT ON SYRIAN FRONT; (C) UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF UN; AND (D) EEC CALL FOR AN ARAB-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE.

2. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, CHATTI STATED THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD OPEN MARCH 25 AT 1700 (TIME HAS NOW BEEN MOVED BACK TO 1830) AND THAT CLOSING SESSION WOULD EITHER BE EVENING MARCH 28 OR MORNING MARCH 29. CHATTI STATED AT LEAST FIFTEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD TAKE PART IN CONFERENCE, WITH REMAINING COUNTRIES BEING REPRESENTED BY PERMANENT DELEGATES TO ARAB LEAGUE. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI WOULD ATTEND, ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SOURCES HERE TELL US FAHMI MAY ONLY ATTEND END OF SESSION SINCE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITING CAIRO.

3. RE CONFERENCE AGENDA, CHATTI MENTIONED SUBJECTS INCLUDED PARA 2 REFTEL. HE ADDED THAT QUESTION OF CREATING ARAB FUND TO AID AFRICA WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT ARAB EUROPEAN CONFERENCE COULD NOT BE HELD BEFORE END OF 1974 OR BEGINNING OF 1975. CHATTI REITERATED THAT ISSUE OF POSTPONING NEXT ARAB SUMMIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1974 WOULD ALSO BE DUSCUSSED, AND WHEN ASKED IF TUNISIA WOULD HOST THIS SUMMIT, SAID MOROCCO HAD ALREADY OFFERED TO SERVE AS HOST.

4. MOST DELEGATIONS ARRIVED MARCH 24. MAHMOUD RIADH, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ARAB LEAGUE, MET THIS MORNING WITH PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA FOR DISCUSSION OF AGENDA OF CONFERENCE. LATER IN MORNING PRESIDENT BOURUIBA RECEIVED RIADH, MOROCCAN FONMIN BENHIMA AND JORDANIAN CONSELOR RIFAI. RADIO TUNIS ANNOUNCED AT NOON MARCH 25 THAT SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS ON WAY TO TUNIS TO ATTEND CONFERENCE, WHICH HAS INCREASED SPECULATION THAT FAHMI WILL ALSO COME.
SEELYE

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